

Decision 04-01-021 January 8, 2004

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Application of Rideshare Port Management, LLC, a California limited liability company and AMRAT, Inc., a California corporation dba Prime Time to revise a Zone of Rate Freedom pursuant to § 454.2, Public Utilities Code to provide for the adjustment of its Airport Passenger [sic] between authorized service areas in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, on the one hand, and John Wayne Airport and Los Angeles International Airport and other authorized terminals on the other hand.

Application 03-06-032  
(Filed June 26, 2003)

**O P I N I O N**

**Summary**

This decision grants the application of Rideshare Port Management, LLC (RPM), a limited liability company, and AMRAT, Inc. (AMRAT), a corporation, to modify their zones of rate freedom pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 454.2.

**Discussion**

RPM and AMRAT are authorized to operate as passenger stage corporations (PSC) transporting passengers and their baggage on an on-call basis between certain points in Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties, on the one hand, and Los Angeles Amtrak Station (AMTRAK), Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors (HBRS), and Los Angeles

International (LAX), Burbank (BUR), Long Beach (LGB), Ontario International (ONT), and John Wayne (SNA) Airports, on the other hand.<sup>1</sup> RPM and AMRAT are affiliated entities. Their relationship was described in Decision (D.) 02-09-035 as follows:

"RPM and AMRAT are two distinct but closely related applicants. RPM provides the transportation service. AMRAT is a corporation that oversees the operations of RPM and provides certain management functions. AMRAT is also the majority owner of RPM.

"Because of the close relationship and shared responsibility for jointly conducting the total operation, each of the applicants has previously been granted authority from this Commission to conduct operations as a Passenger Stage Corporation (AMRAT-PSC 11415 and RPM-PSC 10811). Applicants jointly do business as Prime Time Shuttle."

RPM and AMRAT were structured in this manner to operate under a concessionaire agreement with Los Angeles International Airport

D.02-09-035 authorized RPM and AMRAT (hereinafter Applicants) to establish zones of rate freedom (ZORF) of \$10 above and below their base fares. This application requests authority to expand the lower end of each ZORF to \$25 below the base fares published by Applicants in their tariffs on file with the Commission. Applicants wish to have more flexibility to adjust their fares downward to remain competitive with an increasing number of on-call shuttle services, scheduled PSC services, and taxicabs. They also desire to promote ridership in their service areas, particularly in the outlying Riverside/San

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<sup>1</sup> RPM and AMRAT were originally granted their PSC certificates by Decision (D.) 99-04-050 and D.99-05-033, respectively. D.02-09-035 authorized an expansion of the territorial scope of each certificate.

Bernardino market. Applicants operate in a highly competitive environment. Their request is reasonable and should be granted.

Notice of filing of the application appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on June 27, 2003.

In Resolution ALJ 176-3116 dated July 10, 2003, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. No protest has been received. Given this status, public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to alter the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-3116.

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 311(g)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

### **Findings of Fact**

1. Applicants are currently authorized to operate as PSCs on an on-call basis between certain points in Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties, on the one hand, and AMTRAK, HBRS, LAX, BUR, LGB, ONT, and SNA, on the other hand.
2. The application requests authority to expand the lower end of the ZORF held by each Applicant to \$10 above and \$25 below any of the base fares published in their tariffs on file with the Commission.
3. Applicants will compete with PSCs, taxicabs, limousines, buses, and automobiles in their operations. The request to expand each ZORF is fair and reasonable.
4. No protest to the application has been filed.
5. A public hearing is not necessary.

6. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

### **Conclusions of Law**

1. The application should be granted.
2. Before Applicants change any fares under their expanded ZORF authorities, Applicants should give this Commission at least ten days' notice. The tariffs should show the high and low ends of the ZORF and the then currently effective fare between each pair of service points.
3. Since the matter is uncontested, the decision should be effective on the date it is signed.

## **O R D E R**

### **IT IS ORDERED** that:

1. Rideshare Port Management, LLC, a limited liability company, and AMRAT, Inc., a corporation, (Applicants) are authorized under Pub. Util. Code § 454.2 to expand their zones of rate freedom (ZORF) to \$10 above and \$25 below any of the base fares published in their tariffs on file with the Commission.
2. Applicants shall each file an expanded ZORF tariff in accordance with the application on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public. The ZORF authority shall expire unless exercised within 120 days after the effective date of this order.
3. Applicants may make changes within the authorized expanded ZORF by filing amended tariffs on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public. The tariffs shall include the authorized maximum and minimum fares and the fare to be charged between each pair of service points.

4. In addition to posting and filing tariffs, Applicants shall post notices explaining fare changes in their terminals and passenger-carrying vehicles. Such notices shall be posted at least ten days before the effective date of the fare changes and shall remain posted for at least 30 days.

5. The Application is granted as set forth above.

6. This proceeding is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated January 8, 2004, at San Francisco, California.

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY

President

CARL W. WOOD

LORETTA M. LYNCH

GEOFFREY F. BROWN

SUSAN P. KENNEDY

Commissioners

